

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

November Meeting via Zoom

Winter Field Day
Steve Sergeant, KC6ZKT

Wednesday, November 10
Meeting Starts at 7pm
Visitors Are Welcome!

***Due to the corona virus,
there will not be a meeting
at American Red Cross.***

WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)		
Band	Frequency	PL
6 Meters*	52.580- MHz	151.4 Hz
2 Meters	147.39+ MHz	151.4 Hz
1.25 Meters	223.96- MHz	156.7 Hz
0.70 Meter	441.35+ MHz	88.5 Hz
0.23 Meter	1286.2- MHz	100 Hz

*** The 6 Meter repeater is currently down**

WVARA's club net is on the W6PIY repeaters each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. All repeaters are linked together during the net. The net control script can be found at www.wvara.org in the "On The Air" dropdown.

Zoom instructions have been sent via the WVARA email reflector and can likewise be obtained by contacting K6EI - his email is available via QRZ. Hope to see you there! Jim, K6EI, WVARA Vice-President



WVARA's Winter Field Day Team: 2019

The next monthly WVARA meeting will be at **7pm on Wednesday, Nov 10, via Zoom**. Zoom instructions have been sent via WVARA reflector and can likewise be obtained by contacting K6EI — his email is available via QRZ.

Our Nov 10 presentation will be on Winter Field Day with Steve Sergeant, KC6ZKT. Steve will present our plans for WVARA's Winter Field Day participation on January 29-30. Winter Field Day is an emergency communications exercise focused on providing communications services in some of our area's most challenging conditions. Our WVARA team will be operating from a 2,840' hilltop in Henry W. Coe State Park east of Morgan Hill, where we had a great time and scored some impressive points in 2019! You can learn more about WFD at [<https://www.winterfieldday.com/>].

Steve Sergeant is a third-generation ham. Originally licensed Novice class in 1972, his licensed expired and later in 1991 he was granted KC6ZKT as a Technician, and has since upgraded to Extra. Steve has a long career in audio engineering for professional and later consumer audio system integration. He currently works at Dolby Laboratories as an Applications Engineer. Steve is on the boards of the WVARA and the Nature Sounds Society. He is also a volunteer backpacking instructor for the Sierra Club, and a Uniformed Volunteer for California State Parks.

Hope to see you there!

Jim, K6EI

WVARA Vice President

Holiday Party

Due to COVID, our Red Cross meeting room is not yet available. So this year we will be holding an outdoor Holiday BBQ midday on Saturday, December 18 at the Pickleweed Picnic Area at Sunnyvale's Badlands Park. Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Meetings and Events		
Nov 10	Speaker: Steve Sergeant, KC6ZKT	Winter Field Day Plans
Dec 18	<i>HOLIDAY BBQ at Sunnyvale's Bayland Park</i>	
Jan 12	Speaker: Teri Grizer, K8MNJ	Grounding/Bonding for RFI Mitigation
Jan 29-30	<i>Winter Field Day at Henry Coe State Park</i>	
Feb 9	Speaker: Bryan Klofas, KF6ZEO	Picoballoons in the Bay Area

Welcome to our new members!

Barry Dryden, AJ6SG

Lisa Bickford, K6LIS

Angelica Lanfranconi, KN6NAM

Todd Klaus , KN6RBR



A Telegraphic Key

DE W6ESL

A while back I asked if a member of WVARA might happen to have a straight key which they would part with. The plan is to give the key and an oscillator to a YL that is learning the code.

I did get a response and that key is sitting on my work table as I write.

In the meantime, I had bid on a key offered for sale on Ebay. I low balled the bid, and didn't expect to win. However, as the key was offered in the condition pictured above, there was this remote possibility.

And I did win. Paying for it is another story, as the seller had issues with her Paypal account, and it took a lot of maneuvering. But it arrived. Exactly as pictured. It came without the little spring to return the key lever to normal. More on that latter.

It was in rough condition. I could not even determine the manufacturer. Looking at it, I expected it to be of very cheap manufactured abroad.



And how do you clean something like that up.

Google to the rescue.

Take it apart, and soak it in Vinegar. So that is what I did. I let it sit roughly 6 hours. In various articles that I read, folks advised letting it sit for 24 – 48 hours, however, I was impatient. I then took a tooth brush to everything, and rinsed in distilled water, and rubbed it up with a dry microfiber towel.

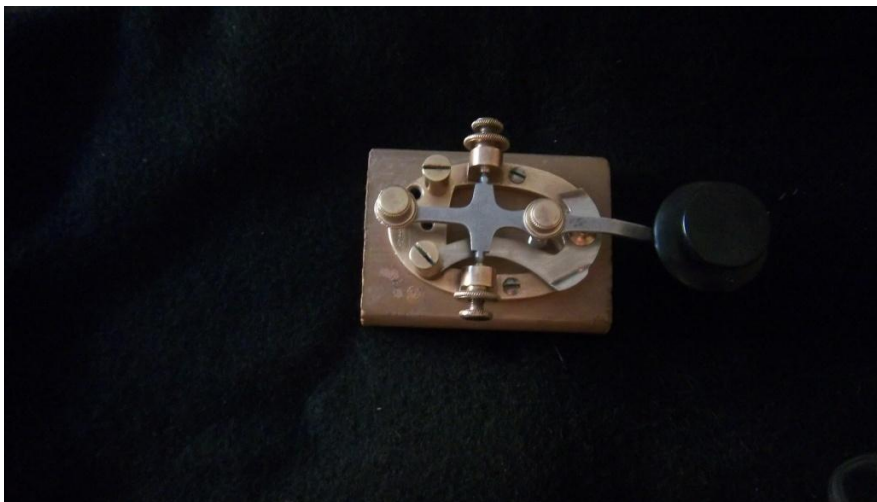
This is how it came out. I had a spring, so I put that in, and did a lot of adjusting, and it had a good positive action.

I was able to identify the manufacturer. J. H. Bunnell, New York. That company made a great many telegraphic keys.

Looking at the history, this key appears to be one that was made in the 1915-1920 era. There are no serial numbers, so it is a guess.

The spring: OEM springs are non-existent, especially with this model. They used a spring that had the bottom end inserted in a small hole in the base, rather than have a metal base and pin for the spring to rest on. If the key were handled roughly after being unscrewed from the desk or base, it probably just disappeared.. I am using a spare Speed-X spring. It works, but it is just held against the wooden base. And it is just a trifle short, in my opinion. I will keep experimenting until I find something better. Or I may have to figure a way to adapt a spring to this use – it is attaching it to the brass base that will be fun.

I disassembled it again, and used Never Dull wadding on it. Cleaned it up even more/ as seen below. I think I am keeping this one.



WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY)					
Tuesdays at 8:30 PM					
Callsign	Name	10/12/21	10/19/21	10/26/21	11/02/21
TOTAL		20	17	21	14
AF6AE	Bill	X	X	X	
K6EI	Jim		X	X	X
K6QFO	Mike			X	
K6VP	Dan	X	X	X	X
K7CID	John	X			
KC6ZKT	Steve	X	X	X	
KE6MT	Rex	X			
KF6EMB	Svend	X	X	X	X
KK6HPF	Ross	X	X	X	
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	NET	NET
KN6FGH	Tim	X	X	X	X
KN6MTI	Jim	X		X	
KN6OGS	Ryan		X	X	
KX6B	Dick	X	X	X	X
N6BTU	Wayne	X	X		X
N6FYR	Matt			X	X
W6BG	Max	X	X	X	X
W6ESL	Tom	X		X	
W6FDU	Ben		X		
W6IA	Mark	X	X		X
W6MNL	Steve			X	X
W6PK	Phil	X			X
W8RJL	Ron	X	X	X	X
WB6JHI	Steve	X	X		
WB6JMR	Mark			X	
WB6KHP	Dave	X		X	X
WR3K	Greg		X	X	
WR6Z	Dave	X		X	

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